

SACG



SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF
CRICKET GROUNDSMEN

Sussex Association of Cricket Groundsmen – 2018 AGM Minutes

Thursday 29th November 2018, 7pm

Sussex Cricket Museum

The 1st Central County Ground, Eaton Road. Hove, East Sussex. BN3 3AN

Welcome & Apologies

AM opened the meeting at 7pm by welcoming the members for attending and introduced guest speaker Karl McDermott.

The following clubs were represented – Preston Nomads, Bexhill, Dormansland, Eastbourne, Hastings & St Leonards Priory, Hurstpierpoint, Cuckfield, Southwick, Lewes Priory, Dicker, West Chiltington, Henfield, Palmers, Ardingly, Rottingdean

Apologies were received from – Brian Fletcher, Steve Pickup, Poynings, Three Bridges, Ram, Petworth Park, Lindfield, Brunswick Village, Steyning, St James.

Minutes from AGM held in 2017

AM asked if the minutes for the 2017 AGM had been received and invited the floor for a proposer for approval. One person ventured that he had received the minutes but as he had not been present at the AGM he could not propose that we approve them. **There were no objections to the minutes being approved which will formally be approved at the next committee meeting.** GWT will circulate a copy of 2017 minutes to the membership in his next communication.

Matters Arising

There were **no** matters arising which were not covered in the agenda.

Chairman Report – provided by Andy Mackay

Thanks all for coming, I am a reluctant Chairman in that I am happy to carry on but invite offers for a replacement from someone who has time to really love the association. As we all know, the purpose of the Association is to help clubs to:

- *Improve the standard of pitches in all ways that we can, whether that be via: training courses, mini clinics, SACG meetings, pitch advisor's role, social media and anything else that anyone can think of! WE ARE OPEN TO IDEAS AND INPUT!!!*
- *It's also hopefully a way of connecting cricket groundsmen around the county and helping you to have a network of people you can look to for support and advice (and maybe borrow the odd bit of machinery from).*
- *We have a management group made up of the officers on the agenda. The idea of that is that our meetings as a wider group can concentrate on interesting and useful things rather than having to minute all our meetings etc., while the management group concentrate of representing your concerns as best as we can. We are always looking for more people to become involved and meet five (ish.) times a year to discuss strategy for the association, so if anyone is interested then please let GWT know.*

- *The Foundation have re-organised their structure for clubs so that we now have four territory managers: North, East and West and Brighton. What this means for you is that there is a clear and simple route to the association, and hopefully the association now has a clear and simple route to you, i.e. the club (or you) can contact the territory manager who then feeds back centrally and takes ownership of this. So, if you want a pitch advisor then you get in contact with them through your respective territory manager.*
- *In the last 12 months we have started a FB page, which is intended as a way of getting to more people as well as a way of sharing information etc. this is supposed to be social media, not antisocial media, so any complaints or problems etc. should be directed through your territory manager.*
- *The webpage on the foundation website will be updated after tonight to include details of how you access the association, pitch advisers etc. and any associated costs so that we are all clear going forwards.*
- *In 2018 we ran a spring meeting at Hove, aimed at pre-season work, including rolling and fertiliser usage. We held our annual watch cricket and relax day at Hove for £15 a head, which had around 25 people attend. We also ran a mini clinic at Ansty about mid-season repairs and then two renovation workshops at Eastbourne and Blackstone.*
- *In terms of the 'trailer', which is a misnomer, we acquired two new scarifiers and these have been busy doing the rounds this back end. The method for booking the equipment seems a bit scatty and so we will clarify this at our next management meeting and put the details on the web page.*
- *It's worth mentioning that as well as the FB page that Brian Sandalls kindly runs, Brian also writes a cricket groundsmanship blog called the Nomads Groundsman. Well worth a look.*
- *Also, worth mentioning is that in Myself, Brian and Brian we have three ECB trained and accredited Pitch advisors who can offer good advice for a relatively small cost. Details on the website.*
- *You will hear a separate financial report, however, it is vital that we arrange the finances going forwards so that we can continue to operate well. For example, the two new scarifiers came at a cost of around £12,000. This was funded by the Foundation because we had no other option. Going forwards we need to make our finances work better so that we can accrue a capital fund to cover the depreciation of the machines. I think it unlikely that the Foundation will fund us in such a way in future, and the wing and a prayer model isn't reliable. Because of this, every affiliated club in the County is now a member. In 2018 this cost £25, and this was part of the affiliation pack. This will rise to £30 per Club for 2019 and means that not only do ALL clubs have access to our free training and members benefits, but that we can hopefully get our message out to more clubs. It also means that membership is cheaper for those clubs who used to pay the £80 (or whatever) but who never used the machinery.*
- *There has been some confusion regarding the cost of machinery hire this last year. It should have been £100 per visit for using the scarifier or spiker, although I was hearing various prices and I think some people were a bit fed up about it. Going forwards, the price is £100 per visit. This helps us to keep the association financially secure (even at £100 we are merely keeping the machines running and delivering them, there is no actual profit) and we still think this represents excellent value given the cost of commercial hire.*
- *We will take any questions about this report or indeed anything else as part of A.O.B.*

In 2019 we would like to run some IOG courses in spring and autumn as well as more mini workshops. It would be great if we could also run a level 2, but we will see if there is the interest

first. Details to follow in due course. It's important to realise that the only way we can run the IOG courses at relatively low cost is if enough people sign up.

Finally, I would like to thank all our volunteers for their time, and Steve Pickup, who is not a volunteer but who has been patient and diligent with his efforts. Gary Wallis-Taylor is now effectively AM's right-hand man and all enquiries should now be directed to him, if not your territory manager.

Many thanks.

Finance Report

AM/GWT apologised to members for not having the SACG accounts to hand at the meeting. AM reported that he expected the association to not have made a loss and expected that we broke even this year. GWT advised that a financial report will be sent out to all members with the AGM minutes.

GWT presented the pricing structure (attached) for SACG services including pitch reports and trailer fees to avoid any future confusion and so clarity was provided. GWT advised members that there had been a fair amount of change within the Sussex Cricket Foundation during 2018 but a settled structure/workforce is now in place.

Hurstpierpoint CC asked that the rate for the mileage charge for Pitch Advisors be made public on the web page, AM agreed that it should be.

Cuckfield CC asked for clarification regarding what 'one hire' meant and that would multiple squares mean multiple hires. AM stated that as a way of simplifying matters, 'one hire' meant the use of that equipment for one day, irrespective of the size of area, so that a club with seven pitches might be able to be extra thorough and that a club with twenty pitches might need to cut their cloth accordingly, but that this way everyone had fair use of the machine.

Ardingly CC asked if we might buy a third or even a fourth scarifier. AM answered that whilst that would be ideal because it would mean that more clubs could get hold of the equipment when they wanted it, the issue of delivering, administrating and maintaining the machine was problematic enough as it was with just the two machines. AM stated that when BF retires this would leave a large void with regards delivering the machinery, storing the machinery and maintaining it. AM asked the members if there were any suggestions as to how we might proceed in the future. AM also stated that other associations relied on members collecting the machinery and then delivering it back but that this was not a desirable situation and, in any case, would need somewhere to store it.

The members **agreed** to the pricing structure for 2018/19. GWT confirmed that the pricing structure will be made available on the website, Facebook and sent to all members.

Election of Officers

There were no nominations for officers and no opposition to the same officers being in position for 2018/19, as below:

- Chairman – Andy Mackay
- Secretary/SCF Rep – Gary Wallis-Taylor
- Finance/SCF Rep – Steve Pickup
- Trailer Coordinator – Brian Fletcher
- Pitch Advisors – Brian Sandalls
- Club Representative – Stuart Hellier, Mick Waghorn
- Coopted Member – Chris Geere

Use of Trailer

BF was not present at the meeting so AM briefly outlined the movements of the equipment so far this year. It was estimated that the trailer visited over 30 clubs during the year who all benefitted from its use. AM added that a list of assets would be drawn up and any small sundry items such as lutes would be distributed by lot amongst interested clubs as it was not worth simply storing these things and that clubs ought to have their own small tools.

Training

AM informed members that we would continue with mini clinics and invited any suggestions for topics to be covered, but that we also had a list of topics from a previous survey. AM will investigate the costs for the IOG Level 1 courses and that we might meet the training needs by delivering a similar course without the accreditation. Jim Gee of West Chiltington said that the accreditation wasn't important as far as he was concerned, it was the information that was of value.

AM also stated that from 2019, anyone wanting to borrow equipment must have attended a mini clinic regarding the use of that equipment. We had run two such clinics in 2018 at Blackstone and at Eastbourne CC and would run more in 2019, making sure that they were accessible and achievable. AM explained that this was to fulfil any obligation that the Association had with regards to hiring to competent users and that we were making sure that machinery did not get damaged by incompetent users at the expense of the next club waiting to use it.

AOB

AM - Sussex Cricket is organisation with one vision and that we were all partners in the game. He invited members to please use him and the Sussex Cricket Limited groundstaff as much as they needed for questions and support via email or telephone calls and that whilst they may not be able to get out and about during the season it was highly likely they could make time for an email or brief chat.

AM – Informed members that Brighton & Hove CC are looking for a new groundsman and anyone interested to take a flyer which contained further details.

AM declared the meeting closed at 19.45pm and welcomed guest speaker Karl McDermott who is the new Head Groundsman at Lords to the stage.